

Application No.: 10/510,291
Amendment Dated: June 12, 2007
Reply to Office Action of: March 12, 2007

MTS-3529US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim 13 has been objected to. The objection is rendered moot by the cancellation of the claim.

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claim 12 has been amended. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants' disclosure is directed to an image processing apparatus and method. A luminance signal is generated based on the result of a color change detection. This allows the favorable suppression of an image degrading dot-like pseudo signal.

Claims 1, 2 and 7-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Osada (JP 2000-197067). Claims 3-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osada (JP 2000-197067) in view of Tanizoe et al. (JP 08-070466). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, 10 and 11, include a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

wherein said color change detection is performed with respect to a predetermined direction corresponding to said pattern, and

wherein a dot-like pseudo signal is generated in said luminance signal at a color change point and is suppressed at said color change point where said result of said color change detection exceeds a predetermined level regarding said result of said luminance change.

Claim 1, 10 and 11 relate to the **suppression of a dot-like pseudo signal**. A dot-like pseudo signal is sometimes generated in a luminance signal at a color change point. This typically occurs at a color change point in which the color greatly changes in a predetermined direction. This feature is found in the originally filed application at page 13, lines 19-23. No new matter has been added.

In Osada's abstract and paragraph 127, Osada discloses a luminance signal and a color difference signal ("*generates a luminance signal Y and color difference signals*"). Furthermore, Osada discloses improving the luminance signal ("*improves a frequency*").

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*characteristic of a high frequency portion of the luminance signal"). Osada's teachings are similar to Applicants' claim 1, 10 and 11 where a luminance signal and color change detection is recited ("luminance signal generating means.... color change detecting means"). In contrast, page 5, lines 19-23 of Applicants' specification teaches a **dot-like** pseudo signal ("manifest itself as a dot-like pseudo signal") that is not disclosed by Osada. Osada does not disclose a "dot-like" pseudo signal. Rather, Osada discloses a "color difference" signal. A "dot-like pseudo signal" and a "color difference signal" are very different. Furthermore, the Applicants' specification at page 14 lines 1-6 teaches the suppression of the dot-like pseudo signal ("detecting a color change....generating a luminance signal appropriately based on the result of the color change detection....favorably suppress generation of such a pseudo signal"). Applicants' claims are different than Osada, because of Applicants' pseudo signal and its suppression in independent claims 1, 10 and 11 ("a **dot-like pseudo signal** is generated in said luminance signal at a color change point and is **suppressed**").*

It is because Applicants' include the feature of "*a dot-like pseudo signal is generated in said luminance signal at a color change point and is suppressed*", that the following advantages are achieved. An advantage is the ability to suppress the dot-like pseudo signal in order to improve the image capturing quality of the image processing apparatus. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above claims 1, 10 and 11 are patentable over the art of record.

Claims 3-9 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claims 3-9 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claim 12 includes all the features of claim 11 from which it depends. Thus, claim 12 is also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

New dependent claim 14 has been added to the application. This claim recites the result of the color change being a value, and the result of the luminance change being a value. This claim is patentable by virtue of its dependency on allowable claim 1.

**...wherein said result of said color change is a value, and
wherein said result of said luminance change is a value.**

No new matter has been added.

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New dependent claim 15 has been added to the application. This claim recites the result of the color change being a value, and the result of the luminance change being a value. This claim is patentable by virtue of its dependency on allowable claim 10.

**...wherein said result of said color change is a value, and
wherein said result of said luminance change is a value.**

No new matter has been added.

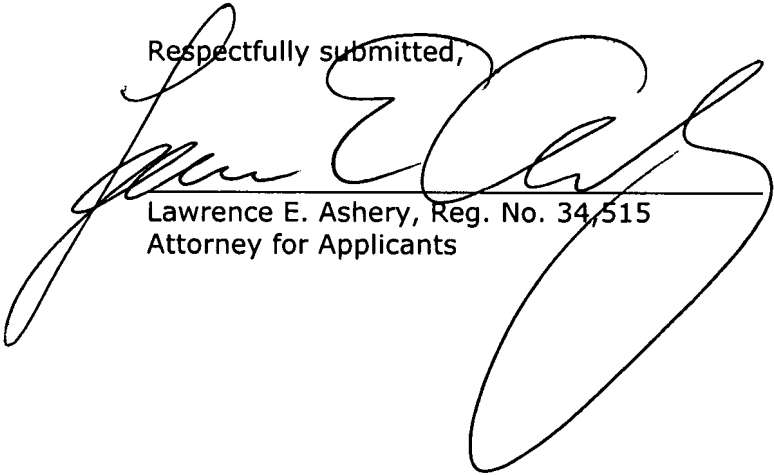
New dependent claim 16 has been added to the application. This claim recites the result of the color change being a value, and the result of the luminance change being a value. This claim is patentable by virtue of its dependency on allowable claim 11.

**...wherein said result of said color change is a value, and
wherein said result of said luminance change is a value.**

No new matter has been added.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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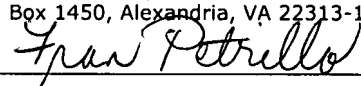
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